

PAPERBOUNDS

AMERICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN WORLD, 1776-1882. By James A. Field. Princeton reprint, 1976. 485 pp. \$5.95 (cloth, \$16)

Out of his research on early American relations with Mediterranean countries, Swarthmore historian James A. Field, Jr. has produced a bookful of surprises. By the 1820s, Boston merchants, freed from colonial trading restrictions, were buying Turkey's entire opium crop for the China trade. By the 1880s, the United States was the sole supplier of oil (from Pennsylvania) to the Levant and Arabia. New England missionaries introduced modern Arabic printing presses and the cultivation of potatoes to the Near East. An American naval architect rebuilt the Sultan's fleet after the Ottoman naval disaster at Navarino. American officers staffed the Egyptian Army when the Suez Canal was being built. Vacillating between advocacy of the peaceful spread of Western civilization and intervention in the politics of the Mediterranean (e.g., the U.S. Navy's 1827 burning of Mykonos), American religious and secular evangelism had a century-long heyday.

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE UNIONS: A Study of the Crisis in Public Sector Labor Relations. Edited by A. Lawrence Chickering. Institute for Contemporary Studies, 1976. 248 pp. \$3.95

Strikes by municipal workers have continued sporadically since the New York Transit Workers' walkout attracted nationwide attention in 1966. Comprehensive information about public employee unions—of firemen, teachers, municipal bureaucrats—has been scarce, however. This collection

of essays by union leaders, big-city mayors, and such academic and legal specialists as Seymour Martin Lipset and Theodore W. Kheel, clarifies much that has been only hazily reported in the press about public workers' rights, wages, and political roles. The fastest growing segment of the labor movement, these unions have become a major target of critics concerned with government cost and efficiency. The AFL-CIO itself is torn on how to cope with conflicts arising between its old-line unions and its aggressive new 700,000-member affiliate, the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees.

SHAKESPEARE ON THE AMERICAN STAGE: From the Hallams to Edwin Booth. By Charles H. Shattuck. Folger Books, 1976. 170 pp. \$7.95 (cloth, \$19.95)

Many Washington residents rate the Folger Shakespeare Library productions high among the city's more certain theatrical pleasures. Shattuck's illustrated history meets Folger standards. He writes about the Hallam Company's 1752 staging in Williamsburg of *The Merchant of Venice* (the first professional performance of a Shakespeare play in America), about early Philadelphia and New York theaters, Edmund Kean as Shylock, Edwin Forrest as Coriolanus, Fanny Kemble as Isabella, and Edwin Booth in his many roles. Booth was embarrassed by Romeo, insisted that Hamlet was not in love with Ophelia, and said of Benedick: "This fellow is a lover. I loathe the whole pack of them. Always did. Even as a youngster I loved the villains."